

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed August 29, 2007. In the Office Action, claims 1, 3-6, 8, 10, 12-15, 17, 19, 21-24, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 10, and 19 to clarify embodiments of the invention.

Reconsideration in light of the amendments and remarks made herein is respectfully requested.

#### ***Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103***

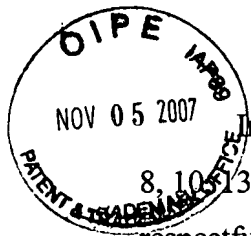
Claims 1, 4, 5, 10, 13, 19, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly obvious over U.S. Publication No. 2004/0199775 to Ser et al. (hereinafter Ser) in view of Jain et al. "Hiding Fingerprint Minutiae in Images". Further, the dependent claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly obvious over Ser and Jain and further in view of various other cited references including U.S. Patent No. 4,790,564 issued to Larcher et al. (hereinafter Larcher) and U.S. Patent No. 6,763,127 issued to Lin et al. (hereinafter Lin).

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 10, and 19 to clarify embodiments of the invention. In particular, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 10 and 19 such that they at least generally recite limitations generally related to: defining a plurality of minutiae in a fingerprint image including data related to X,Y coordinates and an angle for a minutiae *and data related to a classification of the minutiae as a termination or bifurcation minutia...removing the minutiae that are not classified as termination or bifurcation minutia...estimating a score associated with a minutia corresponding to a validity of the minutia based upon ridge flow properties, valley flow properties, and noise associated with the minutiae for the fingerprint image...wherein the score due to noise corresponds to the amount of noise about the minutia in a pre-determined window about the minutia...and the score is further estimated based upon whether the minutia is classified as a termination or bifurcation minutia...and...matching the fingerprint image against one or more sample fingerprint images utilizing a two-dimensional*

partial point set pattern matching (PFPM) algorithm under translation and rotation utilizing the score. (Emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully submits that these limitations of Applicant's amended independent claims 1, 10, and 19 are not taught or suggested by Ser in combination with Jain alone or in combination with the other references cited by the Office Action such as Larcher, Lin, or the various other references cited in the Office Action.

Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claims 1, 10, and 19 are clearly patentable over the prior art of record and should be allowable, as well as the claims that depend therefrom. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner allow amended independent claims 1, 10, and 19, and the claims that depend therefrom, and pass these claims to issuance.



**Conclusion**

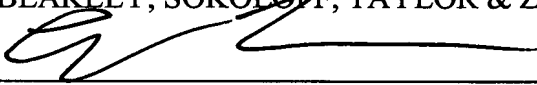
In view of the remarks made above, it is respectfully submitted that pending claims 1, 4-6, 8, 10, 13-15, 17, 19, 22-24, and 26 are allowable over the prior art of record. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that all the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 02-2666 and please credit any excess fees to such account.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 10/30/2007

By

  
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**Attachments**

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION (37 CFR 1.84)**

*I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being:*

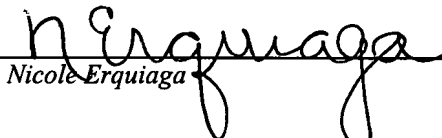
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Date: 10/30/2007

  
Nicole Erquiaga  
10/30/2007  
Date